

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 00328 052110Z

12

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9567

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUANDA

USUN NEWYORK 474

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 328

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR PO AO MZ MC PU

SUBJECT: PAIGC SECRETARY-GENERAL COMMENTS ON GENERAL SPINOLA'S
PROPOSALS FOR NEW LUSITANIAN FEDERATION

REF: LISBON 778

1. SHORTLY AFTER RECEIPT REFTEL, EMBOFF ON MARCH 3 HAD OCCASION
TO HAVE CHAT WITH PAIGC SECRETARY-GENERAL PEREIRA. HE ASKED
PEREIRA IF SECRETARY-GENERAL HAD HEARD OF SPINOLA'S BOOK AND WHAT
SECRETARY-GENERAL THOUGHT OF SPINOLA'S PROPOSALS FOR SELF-
DETERMINATION AND NEW LUSITANIAN FEDERATION. PEREIRA BEGAN HIS
REPLY BY CHARACTERIZING SPINOLA AS FASCIST, RACIST. AS FOR GUINEA-
BISSAU, PEREIRA SAID REFERENDUM HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN AND
"STATE OF GUINEA-BISSAU" HAD BEEN DECLARED. WHAT "STATE" WANTS
FROM PORTUGAL IS RECOGNITION AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH "GUINEA-
BISSAU GOVERNMENT" TO END WAR.

2. PEREIRA THEN COMMENTED THAT FROM PORTUGUESE VIEWPOINT,
SITUATION IN GUINEA-BISSAU IS WORSENING. OLDER PAIGC LEADERS,
LIKE HIMSELF, KNOW PORTUGUESE AND PORTUGAL AND
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PAGE 02 CONAKR 00328 052110Z

STILL HAVE CULTURAL AND SENTIMENTAL TIES THEY WISH TO

MAINTAIN. YOUNGER ELEMENTS, HOWEVER, KNOW PORTUGUESE ONLY AS PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR BOMBING, SHELLING AND MOVEMENTS OF POPULATION. THESE YOUNGER ELEMENTS TAKE MUCH HARDER LINE, AND IT IS ONLY MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY AND THEIR VIEWS WILL REPLACE THOSE OF MORE MODERATE OLDER LEADERS. AS EXAMPLE, PEREIRA SAID HE FELT IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT WAR HAD NOW ESCALATED INTO NEW PHASE OF URBAN "TERRORIST ATTACKS" IN WHICH IT IS INEVITABLE THAT INNOCENT PEOPLE WOULD BE INJURED. YOUNGER ELEMENTS OF THE PAIGC, HOWEVER, FELT DIFFERENTLY AND HAD PREVAILED. THEREFORE, THE SOONER PORTUGUESE DECIDE TO NEGOTIATE THE BETTER CHANCE THEY WILL HAVE FOR GUARDING CERTAIN INTERESTS IN OVERSEAS TERRITORIES.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PEREIRA EXPRESSED COMPLETE LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN SPINOLA, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VIEWS INDICATE HE SHARES SPINOLA'S ANALYSIS OF WHERE PORTUGAL IS HEADING WITH HER PRESENT POLICIES, PARTICULARLY SPINOLA'S CONCERN THAT EVEN "SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL" TIES ARE THREATENED IF THEY CONTINUE. YOUNG HAWKS PEREIRA REFERRED TO HAVE NOT ONLY A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE TOWARD PORTUGAL FROM THAT OF SOME RELATIVELY MODERATE OLDER LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS BUT MANY OF THEM WERE TRAINED BY CUBANS, SOVIETS AND OTHERS AT VERY IMPRESSIONABLE AGE. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW WHAT ROLE, IF ANY SPINOLA FORESEES FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SELF-DETERMINATION PROCESS.
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